

REMARKS

Claims 2-6, 9-18, 20-24, 27-42, 44-46 and 48-50 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2-6, 9, 12, 13, 27, 37, 44 and 46 are amended and claims 7, 8, 25, 26, 47 and 51 are canceled. No new matter is added.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 9-11, 20-22, 26 and 47-49 contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 27-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action, on page 9, explains "a cartridge frame is the structure that surrounds the elements constituting the process cartridge. It is normally not pliable but made of a strong protective substrate." Applicant respectfully asserts that the Office Action is importing limitations into the claims from outside of the specification. "During examination the USPTO must give claims their broadest reasonable interpretation in light of the specification. This means that the words of the claim must be given their plain meaning unless the plain meaning is inconsistent with the specification." MPEP §2111.01I citing *In re Zletz*, 13 USPQ2d 1320, emphasis added. Applicant respectfully asserts that a cartridge frame is defined by the application and the claims reflect that definition.

The Office Action, on page 10, asserts "The figure included in the arguments clearly shows a process cartridge that has an unprotected and uncovered drum; however, the claims recite that the process cartridge accommodates a drum (photosensitive body). If the drum is not part of the process cartridge, then the cartridge is just a developing cartridge." Applicant respectfully asserts that "accommodates" does not require that the drum be protected or covered. Applicant also notes that 2 of the 4 figures are sectional views in which all of the structure of the invention is not visible. Further, page 14 of the specification recites "the developing devices 51M, 51C, 51Y and 51Bk are integrally connected to the photosensitive

drums 3M, 3C, 3Y and 3Bk and the chargers 71M, 71C, 71Y and 71Bk via urethane elastomers 57 and 58 to configure process cartridges 50M, 50C, 50Y and 50Bk" (emphasis added). The specification clearly states that the drums are part of the cartridges.

The Office Action, on page 10, also asserts "if applicant is claiming a special cartridge frame that moves, it needs to be described in the specification and depicted in the drawings." Applicant respectfully asserts that the specification and drawings clearly show a cartridge frame that moves. For example, see Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 where photosensitive drum 3C changes position relative to development roller 52C. Further, the specification states on page 4, "when the process cartridge disposed with the photosensitive body and the processing device acting on the photosensitive body is loaded in and unloaded from the image forming apparatus, the relative positions of the photosensitive body and the processing device can be changed so that the process cartridge does not interfere with the exposure unit" (emphasis added). Applicant respectfully asserts that the above mentioned portions of the specifications and drawings support a cartridge frame that moves.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully maintains and reasserts the arguments with respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, asserted on pages 2-4 of the February 11, 2008 Request for Reconsideration. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 5, 7, 12-14, 17, 23-25, 27-42 44, 45 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ishida, JP-A 2001-255777, in view of Arimitsu et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0142991. Claims 7 and 25 are cancelled, rendering their rejection moot. The rejection with respect to the remaining claims is respectfully traversed.

Regarding claim 27, the Office Action on page 12, states "Claim 27 is unclear because of the limitations recite a [sic] process cartridge and a drum, but this is not shown, please address that issues [sic] so that this claim may be allowed." Claim 27 calls for a process

cartridge loadable in and unloadable from the mainframe, the process cartridge comprising a cartridge frame and a photosensitive body, the cartridge frame comprising a developing roller ... and a container that contains a developer. Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 27 clearly calls for the structure shown in the figures as requested in the Office Action.

Claims 5, 12, 13, 28-42, 44, 45 and 50 depend from, and are patentable with independent claim 27, as well as for the additional features they recite.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 12-14, 16, 17, 23-25, 27-42, 44-46, 50, and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Takiguchi, JP-A 9-152826, in view of Arimitsu. Claims 7, 8 and 25 are cancelled, rendering their rejection moot. The rejection with respect to the remaining claims is respectfully traversed.

Applicant notes that the rejection has been changed from a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) in the previous Office Action to a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). However, the Office Action still fails to provide a clear articulation of the reasons why the claimed invention would have been obvious, as required by MPEP §§ 2141(III) and 2142.

Regarding claim 27, as noted above, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 27 clearly calls for the structure shown in the figures as requested in the Office Action, and is therefore also patentable over the combination of Takiguchi and Arimitsu.

Claims 4, 5, 12, 13, 28-42, 44, 45 and 50 depend from, and are patentable with independent claim 27, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of claim 46, the allowable subject matter from canceled claim 47 has been incorporated into claim 46, rendering the rejection moot. Claims 14, 16, 17, 23 and 24 depend from, and are patentable with independent claim 46, which has subject matter indicated as allowable.

As noted above, claim 51 has been cancelled, rendering its rejection moot.

Claims 2, 3, 6, 15, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ishida or Takiguchi in view of Arimitsu. Claims 2, 3 and 6 have been amended to depend from claim 27, rendering their rejection moot. Claims 15 and 18 depend from claim 46, which contains subject matter which was indicated as allowable.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Request for Continued Examination

Date: September 15, 2008

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